

## Helpful student quotes about the Pre-Ph.D. Program

“[Isys571\*] has been very helpful. The readings gave me a better understanding of what it is like to be a scientist and a professor. I also enjoyed the discussions we had in class. I have not been exposed to philosophical discussions in any of my other classes. Discussing and debating issues has helped me articulate my thoughts and express my opinions. I am grateful for this preparation.”

--**Larissa Oprya**, *Masters of Information Systems at BYU*

“The Ph.D. prep class is [Isys571] very good preparation. If you cannot sign up for the class, try to audit or sit in it for a few sessions. Also, make sure you meet with Dr. Lowry.”

--**Dr. Bonnie Anderson**, *Assistant Professor of Information Systems*

“[Isys571\*] has been very helpful. Yes, I think it is harder than most classes, but I like how I can focus on sharing ideas instead of worrying about the next quiz. Students will enjoy it if they put in the effort. I have learned some great skills in this class. I have learned how to make other peoples’ ideas fit into my ideas. I can now put different ideas together from different view points. I have become a better reader and writer. This class has changed the way I look at others’ claims, statements, and findings. I now am able to focus on the right questions and not the right answers. If you are interested in a Ph.D., you MUST take this class.”

--**Aaron Curtis**, *Masters Information Systems Management*

“Ph.D. prospects must like to solve problems, like new discoveries, and are generally more analytical than most people. Candidates need to have the personality trait of desiring to constantly work on new projects, and should have a good measure of intellectual curiosity. Most importantly, prospects should remember that they should have fun and enjoy their work.”

--**Dr. Douglas Dean**, *Assistant Professor of Information Systems*

If you are a student interested in pursuing a Ph.D., you should get some experience that will make you more attractive to research institutions. If you were awarded an ORCA grant and you were able to publish or present a research paper, this would be a great plus; it will help you stand out. The more of your academic experience you can show, the better off you will be. Letters of recommendation are always important. Make sure you are fostering a good relationship with professors.

--**Matthew Maddox**, *Office of research and creative activities*

From a spiritual perspective, I feel [Isys571\*] has helped me put everything into balance. If I put my priorities into place, everything will work out. I can see living examples of this in the lives of the BYU faculty members. Through their Ph.D. programs, they were able to balance their lives and put their priorities in the right perspective and they now are very successful. Little by little and I will get to the finish line.

--**Larissa Oprya**, *Masters of Information Systems at BYU*

\* **Isys571 or Acc571** are the introductory Ph.D. prep courses for the MISM and Macc (these were previously number Isys611 and Acc611, respectively). These courses are taught under the same format and rigor as an introductory Ph.D. seminar that you would take if you were to enter a Ph.D. program. You are exposed to some of the key articles in these fields, the philosophy of science, designing research studies, and critiquing research. Through this experience you not only are much better prepared for Ph.D. studies than a typically Master’s student, but you will better know if this is something you really want to pursue or not. The Isys program has a follow-up seminar Isys572, which builds on Isys571.